

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 IO-14 DHA-02 MCT-01 SY-05

COME-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /069 W

-----004872 111221Z /46

P 081300Z JUL 77

FM AMCONSUL ZAGREB

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4591

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

UNCLAS ZAGREB 598

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, YO, US

SUBJECT: REACTION TO NEW ATTACK ON OFFICIAL OF CROATIAN
FRATERNAL UNION

REF: ZAGREB 572

1. ZAGREB DAILY "VJESNIK" OF JULY 8 CARRIES TANJUG REPORT THAT BERNARD LUKETIC, TREASURER OF THE CROATIAN FRATERNAL UNION, WAS "SERIOUSLY WOUNDED" IN ATTACK IN MILWAUKEE. THE REPORT STATED THAT LUKETIC WAS ATTACKED WHILE ON HIS WAY TO DELIVER AN ADDRESS AT A MEETING OF THE CROATIAN FRATERNAL UNION, A PITTSBURGH BASED ORGANIZATION OF AMERICANS OF YUGOSLAV DESCENT. TANJUG BLAMES THE ATTACK ON "EXTREMIST EMIGRES" WHO ARE TRYING TO DISRUPT THE UNION'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE YUGOSLAV-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP.

2. AN ACCOMPANYING COMMENTARY ARTICLE IN VJESNIK STRONGLY CRITICIZES U.S. AUTHORITIES FOR FAILING TO TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION AGAINST THE "AMERICAN FASCIST UNDERGROUND": "IT IS DIFFICULT TO GET OVER THE IMPRESSION THAT SUCH TERRORIST ACTIVITY IS INCREASING IN FACT BECAUSE THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES, FEDERAL POLICE, AND EVEN THE COURTS ARE ACTING MORE THAN CHARITABLY TOWARD THOSE WHO EXCUTE FASCIST ATTACKERS (WHEN THEY
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ARE FOUND) BUT MOST OF ALL TOWARDS THOSE WHO STAND BEHIND THEM-- WHEN IF ONE WANTED--ONE COULD EASILY FIND THEM." THE GOAL OF RECENT ATTACK, VJESNIK EXPLAINS, IS THE DISCREDITING OF YUGO-SLAVIA AS THE HOST OF THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE. VJESNIK ALSO COMPLAINS THAT "SUCH ATTACKS ARE ALWAYS EXPLAINED IN THE AMERICAN INFORMATION MEDIA AS ALLEGED POLITICAL ACTIVITY" AND THAT TERRORISM PASSES FOR "ANTI-COMMUNISM". IN CONCLUSION, VJESNIK

STATES THAT THE ATTACK ON LUKETIC AND OTHERS LIKE IT ARE
"ATTACKS ON THE PROCLAIMED POLICY OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
IN ITS RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA", AND THAT THEY ARE ALSO THE
"OPPORTUNITY FOR THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES CLEARLY AND WITH
ACTION TO PUT ASIDE THE FASCIST UNDERGROUND."

3. COMMENT: THE ATTACK ON LUKETIC IS THE SECOND ATTACK IN LESS
THAN TWO WEEKS ON AN OFFICIAL OF THE CROATIAN FRATERNAL UNION.
BOTH LUKETIC AND UNION PRESIDENT BADOVINAC, WHOSE HOME WAS
BOMBED LAST WEEK (REFTEL) HAVE VISITED ZAGREB AND ARE WELL
KNOWN TO CROATIAN POLITICAL LEADERS. KAISER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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